

THE WEEKLY ARIZONAN

OCTOBER 2, 1869

THE CUBAN QUESTION.

The present administration, like so many of its predecessors has its numerous advocates and opposers—some for political reasons without regard for the national welfare, others because they have the interests of the country at heart and are opposed to partisan broils. This difference of opinion is very necessary for if the people were in every instance to jump en masse to one and the same conclusion, it is clear that but one side of any question would ever be viewed and no question would ever be discussed. But, when after a proper review a really important subject has been laid before the people and the most judicious line of action marked out and generally acknowledged, it might very reasonably be expected that such line would be at once adopted, and when necessary, acted upon at once. Now, the Cuban question has been commented upon by the press of the United States until its every feature has again and again been exposed, and the line of action which the interests honor and duty of the United States demand that the administration adopt has been unmistakably pointed out—recognition by our government of the patriot cause. Notwithstanding, we find our government has done nothing toward granting belligerent rights to this struggling people and are not therefore surprised to read so many unwholesome conjectures employed in endeavoring to account for that which is really unaccountable. There is not, to-day, a single intelligent American who does not feel that the policy pursued by our government toward Spain and Cuba is unworthy the American spirit as a nation which has ever preached "liberty," and a reproach to that consciousness of national strength which is the pride of every American. This people struggling for liberty, for independence, struggling to free themselves from the most despotic yoke by which any civilized people of this age are burdened, ask of us not armed support, but only that we accord them the rights of a nation at war that they may be placed upon an equal footing with the contending power in so much as the privilege of purchasing war material in American ports is concerned. But even this is denied them. Strange that America should thus cherish the memory of its own glorious struggle! The Cabinet Cuban independence, adroitly changes the subject and hints something about friendly relations with Spain, and just here involves the national honor by forcing upon Spain friendship which she has taken particular pains to ignore. Painful however it be to admit this it cannot be denied; the story of Wyeth and Polhamus in connection with the Admiral Hoff farce stands a damning proof of its veracity. The fate of three men, shot to death upon the Spanish ramparts, unfriended and therefore unconvicted of any crime, and while protesting in the name of the United States of which they were citizens, would, indeed, almost give it to be understood that Americans have no rights beyond the boundaries of the Republic, or, if they have, that Spain is licensed to ignore them.

If all this be considered it becomes perplexing to account for the manner in which we are bound under friendly obligations to Spain. We certainly owe no "friendly relations" which would be violated by granting the rights of belligerents to the Cubans.

This question as one among the most important which have been brought before the present administration and it behooves Grant to evade it no longer, but to act at once and in accordance with the best judgment of the nation, which, from the coast of the Pacific to the coast of the Atlantic, cries out for Cuban independence.

THE MEMPHIS, EL PASO AND PACIFIC R. R. CO.

Some bonds of this company having been put on the French market certain jealous parties endeavored to throw discredit on them by announcing that the company really had no existence. The representatives of the company promptly arrested the mischief makers and they are now on trial in Paris. Minister Washburne having written to Secretary Fish to know what government aid such company had received, was informed that none had yet been given. It is a well known fact the company has not asked any excepting the right of way across New Mexico and Arizona, which, at the

late session of Congress was given by the House, by a two-third vote, and undoubtedly would have been given by the Senate had the proposition been brought to a vote in that body.

The company was organized by the State of Texas before the war and ex-Governor Throckmorton, of that State certifies to the following facts:

1. Intact validity of the company's charter in Texas.
2. Land grants in Texas—10,240 acres per mile of road.
3. Right of way through Texas, &c.
4. Right of forming connection and consolidation with other lines.
5. Progress of construction before the war, 50—100 miles graded, iron ready, seized by Confederates, locomotives, &c.
6. Surveys, maps, field notes, location of road, land surveys, and reservation of company's lands, &c., all OFFICIALLY FILED AND RECORDED in the general land office in Texas.
7. Line passes through the most healthy and fertile region of Texas.
8. The line is in great favor with the people of Texas.

The company is not only a genuine one but already has a large and valuable property, and in connection with the San Diego and Gila R. R. Co., of California, who have already commenced operations, promises to build over the 32d parallel quicker than any other organization can possibly do so. But there are so many parties who wish to control this particular route that it is not surprising that there are conflicting interests.

THE COMET.

It has been announced to the world by astronomers that the comet now approaching the earth is a solid "mass of fire, many thousand times as large as our earth, with a tail of fire that would reach around the earth more than one hundred times." Now, the science of astronomy is, perhaps, the most sublime and beautiful of the sciences, and presents sufficient simple facts to convey to every ordinary reader some idea of its grandeur. For this reason it is unjust to call in the aid of exaggeration in making statements regarding discoveries among the heavenly bodies; the "system" is sufficiently wonderful in truth. Now, let us see, regarding this comet, this "mass of fire, with a tail of fire that would reach around the earth more than one hundred times." Science will hardly warrant such a theory:

To tell us that this tail is of fire and equal in length to one hundred times the circumference of our earth is equivalent to stating that the comet is enveloped by an atmosphere extending from its surface to the height of two millions and four hundred thousand miles, which, when we consider that the atmosphere of our earth extends to the height of only 45 miles, seems somewhat unreasonable. But it may be asked in what manner the above quotation implies what it does not express—how does it represent the existence of an atmosphere? Because if this tail be a flame it must be within an atmosphere, from the fact that it could not exist in vacuo. Oxygen gas is a powerful supporter of combustion and it is owing to the oxygen it contains that atmospheric air supports combustion; therefore, if this comet be a mass of fire it must have an atmosphere to impart this vital principle that the flame may be kept up—and that such it has not become evident when we consider that as a fire it has for thousands of years been consuming oxygen during which time it has not been supplied with a single cubic inch; which would be a consumption that an atmosphere of even millions of miles in height could not supply. Indeed a "mass of fire many thousand times as large as the earth" would consume the oxygen of an atmosphere enveloping it to the thickness of 2,400,000 miles in a very short time.

The theory which represents this comet as a mass of fire is evidently at fault. We shall not be content with this explanation as to the material of which comets are composed. Theorists will have to guess again. It would have been a much more plausible argument however extravagant, had it been asserted that said comet is an enormous diamond of the first water.

The San Pedro and Los Angeles railroad is completed.

The Post Office Department has become disgusted at the designs and general appearance of the yet new postage stamps and is meditating an effort at improvement at an early day. The *N. Y. Herald* countenances the project and gives the following bit of advice:

It is about time that some definite form and design of postage stamp should be adopted, so that people may know to a certainty what maculated square of paper will carry a letter to its destination or what will not. If there is not genius enough in the Post Office Department to invent a good design, which may be permanent, let the authorities advertise for one. They will find plenty of people able to supply them; and when once adopted, let the new design remain in use. Every other country has been able to fix upon an intelligent postage stamp, recognizable all the world over. Can it be that the spirit of jobbery so prevails in our Post Office Department that we must have a new design every six months or thereabouts?

"The Smiths, the sons of the original Joseph the founder of Mormonism," says the *N. Y. Herald*, "have bearded the lion Brigham Young in his den and are making terrible war upon his system of polygamy. And by the Pacific railroad the Gentiles are crowding around, and for him and his extraordinary despotism the handwriting will soon be visible on the wall. The best thing for him is to proclaim a 'revolution' which will effect an acceptable revolution in the religion of the Latter Day Saints."

Latest News.

(From the daily New Mexican.)

Gen. Sherman was commissioned Secretary of War, pro tem., on the 9th.

Private letters state that an attempt has been made to assassinate Mr. Holdester, minister to Hayti.

Accounts from the city of Mexico say that Señor Tejada has had some correspondence with the Prussian minister in regard to the conspiracy defeated on the 20th of August. The latter congratulates Juarez on his success in frustrating the plot. The conspirators intended to seize a valuable conducta which was to pass through the capital on the 20th for Vera Cruz. The plot was revealed to the authorities and many arrests have been made. The prisoners have been examined in secret, and the results of the investigation are not known.

A Shock of an earthquake was felt last week at Guadalajara.

The coronation of the last Aztec Emperor was unveiled in the capital on the 13th with great ceremony.

The Indian revolt in Michoacan has been suppressed and regiments are being raised to protect the northern frontier from Indian incursions.

The legislature has been convened at the new State capital, Cuernavaca. The Federal government is succoring the families rendered destitute by the inundation in Jalisco.

A Paris dispatch dated Sept 11th says:

The French Emperor gave an audience to General Prim yesterday.

The rumor that Sickles had declared that the United States would recognize the Cubans as belligerents, created the greatest excitement and funds fell to the lowest point they have reached for sixteen years, and terrified the Spaniards amazingly. The papers, however, urge that whatever the action of the United States Spain must preserve the honor of her flag. It is now said that all the ironclads belonging to Spain will be put in a state of preparation for war and dispatched to the Cuban coast so as to be ready in case the United States should attempt to interfere.

News from Hayti, under date of Aug. 25th, says: The rebel steamers Florida and Columbia have bombarded the town of Gonaives. The British gunboat Britomart carried to Port-au-Prince 400 women from the town of Gonaives. President Sainave raised the siege of Aux Cayes, and sailed with the steamers Galatea and Sainave to the port of Port-au-Prince. His steamer became disabled, and he was unable to operate against the town. Sainave is now anxiously awaiting the arrival of an ironclad from the United States. One dollar in gold is valued at \$1,000 in the paper money of the Government.

The foreign residents of Havana, principally the Germans, are enlisting to act as a volunteer reserve battalion when the present volunteers take the field. The foreigners this morning presented a letter to Capt. Gen. De Rodas containing the above offer, and it was accepted by him. Eight hundred insurgents surprised 400 volunteers, five miles from Puerto Principe, and repulsed them. Gen. Puella, with 400 troops, marched to the assistance of the volunteers, but the insurgents refused to give battle. On the 16th of August, the insurgents, several thousand strong, commanded by Gen. Quesada, Gen. Cespedes being present, made an attack on Las Tunas, losing 350 killed. The garrison of Las Tunas consisted of 450 troops, of which 100 were killed and wounded.

Prescott Items.

The last mail brought us three copies of the *Miner* from which we take the following:

Thursday evening last, the cabin of the *Otter*, one of the hardest-working, freest miners in this vicinity, was robbed of \$125 in gold dust, by an old man who had taken in for the night. During the afternoon of Thursday, the thief who had arrived in the Territory, stopped at *Otter* on the Upper Hassayampa, said he was "ped," and hungry. He was taken to the house, had his wants gratified and received permission to stay all night, which he accepted. *Otter* then went to his cabin, worked, returned to his cabin to find the stranger vanished. He then searched for his dust, but that it too was gone. He and another followed the thief as far as Wickenburg, but did not find the money in session.

At Mr. Dickason's ranch, Lower Arizona on the 16th inst., seven Indians, bows, arrows, and five guns, attacked *Nelson* and Ben. Sexton, wounding the three places, and taking four head of Mr. Dennison, being sick with the disease, unable to fight them as vigorously as he wished. Mr. Braneman heard of the attack, mounted a horse, armed himself, and succeeded in recovering the four head of animals. Gen. V. sent out a body of cavalry to search that region.

The night of Monday, September 13th, was the bloodiest night in the town. Two soldiers, Sergeant Patrick, of Co. B. 8th Cavalry, and private Donahue, of Co. F, 12th Infantry, were killed, and another, private George F. F. 12th Infantry, was severely wounded in a critical condition. McGowan is said, murdered in the Diana Salome four o'clock in the morning, by one son, a discharged soldier. Private Ham, of Co. F, 12th Infantry, has been formed, been convicted of stabbing a suspected of shooting Donahue in irons at Fort Whipple. Wm. Cochran (discharged soldier), was mixed row in which McGowan lost his eye and Johnson are now at large, out searching for them, and it is his entire community that they were captured.

OFFICE OF A. A. G. Camp Grant, September 10th

SEALED PROPOSALS

in quintuplicate will be received of the undersigned until 12 o'clock, 1869, when they will be opened, in view of a Storehouse. Building to be of adobe well made and dried. Bidders will state at what price they will lay the adobe; the name named to include the making, building, and putting on the necessary work.

Bidders will state their prices in coin, or its equivalent in legal tender. Each bid must be signed by two persons who will become sureties for full performance; but no bids will be until the decision thereon by the General of the Military Division of the Pacific shall have been received.

Each bid must be accompanied by this advertisement.

Work to be commenced one month after acceptance of the bid.

The plan of the building can be seen at the quartermaster's office at Tucson, A. T.

JAMES CALHOUN, Lieut. 21st A. I.

Administrator's Notice

In the matter of the Estate of M. J. Flornoy Deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given by the administrator of the said estate to all persons having claims against said estate, to exhibit the same with necessary vouchers to the undersigned in Tucson, county of Pima, and Arizona, within twelve months from the date of this notice after which outstanding claims will be forever barred. Tucson, A. T. Sept. 23d, 1869. P. R. T. Administrator.

EDWARD PHELPS, Tucson, A. T.

OFFICE on the Plaza, opposite Church.